PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

Volume 18, Issue 8 August 2025

Stephanie Brady
Investigator & Exorcist

The Zanfretta UFO INCIDENT

5 Haunted Places
That Deliver the Chills

The Oakgreen Demon
A Haunting in Carmichael

The Jorōgumo
Japan's Deadly Spider Spirit

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A Modern Encounter With an Ancient Demon
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about all things

SPIRITUAL & SUPERNATURAL

With ...

Cheryl Knight

Editor-in-Chief Paranormal Underground

ChuckieG

Psychic Intuitive & Paranormal Researcher

Karen Frazier

Author & Energy Healer

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Brian is a member of the Folklore Society (England) and serves as a consultant for U.K.-based research and investigative organization Parasearch. He long ago fell for the lure of the ancient world and tales of the supernatural, initially inspired by visiting the Neolithic chambered tombs of the Cotswold Hills in England and by reading the ghost stories of Sheridan Le Fanu and M.R. James.

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Her magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several niche publications and online media, where she has overseen editorial direction, content development, and investigative features. With a lifelong passion for the unexplained, Cheryl has personally experienced a wide range of paranormal phenomena, fueling her dedication to research and storytelling in the field.

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Known as an esoteric detective, Paul has been reading and studying the unknown since he was a young boy. He has been to over 59 countries to document the paranormal.

Paul worked for military intelligence from 1979 to 1986 and saw several top-secret UFO photographs, making him very interested in extraterrestrials. He is a journalist for the *Costa Rican Times*, and his articles cover metaphysical topics and paranormal investigative stories. He is also co-owner of Halo Paranormal Investigations.

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Chad is co-creator and publisher of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and co-producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. His interest in the paranormal led to the creation of ParanormalUnderground.net, a platform dedicated to exploring unexplained phenomena, investigative research, and personal encounters.

Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, and private residences among his investigations. His passion for the field extends to documenting first-hand experiences and sharing them through in-depth articles, interviews, and multimedia projects.

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KEEPING THE MIDNIGHT MAGIC ALIVE

CARL RICHARDSON ON PARANORMAL RADIO'S NEXT CHAPTER

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

Late-night radio has always been a refuge for the strange and unexplained. In the 1990s, no one embodied that spirit better than Art Bell, whose broadcasts blended credible research, bold speculation, and the thrill of possibility. For many, it remains the golden age of paranormal talk.

Carl Richardson, Bell's brother-in-law, witnessed firsthand how a single voice could spark curiosity in millions. But he believes today's media landscape has lost something vital — authenticity, respect for research, and the raw wonder that once kept listeners awake until dawn.

That conviction led Carl, with producer Joshua Chaires, to create *Midnight Frequency Radio*. The program seeks to revive an atmosphere where UFOs, near-death experiences, and cryptid encounters are approached with curiosity and grounding.

Carl recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* magazine about paranormal broadcasting, UFO disclosure, and how his cross-cultural journey shaped his perspective. He also highlights collaboration, creativity, and why an open forum for listeners is vital to keeping the mystery alive.

Carl Richardson, host of *Midnight Frequency Radio*

* * * * *

Q: Carl, you've described *Midnight Frequency Radio* as a return to the golden era of 1990s paranormal broadcasting. What was it about that era — and shows like Art Bell's — that you felt was missing from today's landscape?

Carl: The shows of the late 1990s and early 2000s seemed to have more credibility in my opinion. Guests on various radio shows were involved in various fields of sciences, industries, and had very credible research.

Each guest represented some of the finest in their respective fields of study and seemed to know what they were talking about. In my opinion, they seemed to be more believable. Today's guests don't have the same flair or style that made that era so special.

Q: You cover a broad range of topics — UFOs, Bigfoot, OBE, strange science. Is there one phenomenon that you believe is on the verge of a breakthrough in terms of public understanding or disclosure?

Carl: UFO disclosure is imminent in my opinion. There are more reports of alien visitors to Earth. World governments are becoming more open to the public ... releasing videos and photos of incidents experienced by armed forces.

One person who I would love to interview is Luis Elizondo, who worked for the U.S. Department of Defense. He has classified UFO pentagon documents that I would love to get him to talk about on my show. Another guest that fascinates me is John Greenewald Jr., who has hundreds of classified UFO documents on his website, TheBlackVault.com.

Q: How do you approach balancing credibility and open-mindedness on the show, especially in an era where the fringe can quickly go viral?

Carl: My approach is like Art's — by letting the guest explain their experiences, points of view, and letting my listeners make up their own minds. I don't believe in all the subjects of research that I cover on my show, but I keep

an open mind. Personally, I never had an out-of-body experience, but I have interviewed Marilynn Hughes, who runs The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation.

I will be interviewing Dr. Raymond Moody, who is one of the world's leading authorities of Near-Death Experiences. By keeping an open forum with my guests and listeners, it will help the show reach bigger audiences. This is what made the 1990s era so special for talk radio.

Q: You've lived in places as diverse as Arkansas, Hawaii, and the Philippines. Have those locations shaped your perspective or deepened your interest in the paranormal in any way?

Carl: Throughout my life, the one constant thing that I've noticed is that no matter where you live in the world, there are different beliefs, religions, cultures, and viewpoints that are unique to that area. Each culture has stories passed down from their ancestors about seeing ghosts, Bigfoot, UFOs, and other strange monsters from all over the world.

Each culture has their own stories on devils, fairies, sea monsters, dogmen, Mothman, and more. Many people have also claimed to have seen things that defy scientific explanations. This is what makes the paranormal field different than any other field of study. The different places that I have lived in have helped deepen my experiences in the paranormal field in many ways.

Q: What's the creative process like between you and your producer, Joshua Chaires? What makes your collaboration work in this next chapter of the Art Bell legacy?

Carl: Josh does a fantastic job in researching and booking the guests that I want on my show. He has served in that same capacity for some of Art's *Midnight in the Desert* staff members' radio shows. Having a skilled producer frees me up to maintain my show website, as well as editing work on the show audio/video files for the archives.

Josh is the current owner of *Dark Matter News*. This paranormal news service was used by Art in 2015. Joshua has made *DMN* available for use exclusively on my new show.

My collaboration work in the next chapter of the Art Bell legacy is to build the show from the ground up, bring on high-profile guests, attract more listeners/affiliates, and someday turn the show over to my nephew/niece Asia Rayne Bell or Alexander William Bell. This will allow listeners to call Asia/Alex and tell them how much their father impacted their lives.

My goal is to help recreate the magic that my brother-in-law had on *Coast to Coast AM*, *Dreamland*, *2013's Dark Matter*, and 2015's final show *Midnight in the Desert*.

Midnight Frequency Radio **brings back the classic spirit of paranormal talk with curiosity and credibility.**

Q: What's your ultimate vision for *Midnight Frequency Radio*?

Carl: My goal is to build *Midnight Frequency Radio* into a worldwide show and have it syndicated on AM and FM terrestrial stations all over the world. It's like building a house. First you need to develop a set of blueprints, then you need to assign a construction crew, and then you need to build one level slowly over time after the foundation is created.

As the show grows and takes on a life of its own, I'm looking to be interviewing many new guests that will cover many new topics.

Q: What else should our readers know about the show?

Carl: *Midnight Frequency Radio* will be a 100% listener-driven show. Listeners be able to call in to ask our guests question. We also have a chatroom on Discord for our listeners to interact with each other, along with a new community on Reddit.

My brother-in-law's approach had a winning formula that allowed him to reach 15-20 million listeners a night back in the 1990s.

* * * * *

For more information, visit Midnight Frequency Radio and Dark Matter News.◆

Fighting Darkness With Faith:

Paranormal Investigator & Exorcist Stephanie Brady

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

For more than 15 years, Stephanie Brady has dedicated herself to exploring the unknown dimensions of the paranormal. As a seasoned investigator, cleanser, and ordained exorcist, she brings both compassion and conviction to a field that often straddles the line between skepticism and belief.

Based in Melbourne, Florida, Stephanie leads two active teams — Supernatural Seekers Paranormal Investigations and Hostly Warriors — that combine science, faith, and intuition in their work to help people reclaim peace in their homes. Her path into the paranormal has been shaped by deeply personal experiences and what she describes as a calling from God. While she began her career investigating spirit hauntings, the onset of the pandemic marked a dramatic shift, with more of her cases involving darker, malevolent forces. That evolution ultimately led her to train alongside Father Lopez, a Roman Catholic priest and exorcist, and later to become an ordained priest and exorcist herself.

Stephanie's approach is grounded in respect for both the living and the departed. She emphasizes that spirits retain free will and personality, and she treats them with the same dignity she extends to her clients. At the same time, her teams rely on scientific tools and methods to rule out natural explanations for reported activity, blending a research-based mindset with spiritual practices such as prayer, cleansing rituals, and exorcisms. This dual lens makes her work distinct, bridging empirical investigation with faith-led intervention.

Beyond her paranormal pursuits, Stephanie is also a mother of three grown sons, an animal rescuer, and a devoted beachgoer who finds spiritual connection in the sea. Her life reflects a balance between family, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to helping others — whether through rescuing animals or facing down demonic entities. In this Q&A, she opens up about her journey, the missions of her teams, and the personal experiences that continue to shape her extraordinary calling.

* * * * *

Stephanie Brady, ordained exorcist and founder of two Florida-based paranormal teams, brings compassion and conviction to her work in battling both spirits and darker forces.

Q: Please tell us a little about yourself.

Stephanie: I have been in the paranormal industry for 15 years doing investigations, executing cleansings, and crossing over spirits. Throughout the years, I gradually gravitated toward more difficult cases. At the same time, I was receiving a pull toward what can only be described as a calling from God. That calling was to work with evil — if not demonic cases. God has blessed me with the gift of no fear, which is great because that's exactly what I would need in my work.

I also saw others charging exorbitant fees for exorcisms, which did not sit well with me. It didn't seem fair

that only the affluent had the means to be free from evil. About this time, the pandemic started, and my cases turned from spirit haunts to evil/demonic. I started working with Father Lopez, a Roman Catholic exorcist priest. Six years later, we are still working together.

Then I saw an opportunity to become an ordained priest/ordained exorcist and signed up for a yearlong training course. I became ordained in April 2024. I work on anything from the mild to the most severe cases and do all my services for free. I'm extremely lucky that I work in two of my favorite passions: helping people and the paranormal.

I am also passionate about rescuing animals. I have two dogs right now and have done wildlife rescue. I love the beach; it's my spiritual place. I adore traveling. In my spare time, you'll find me at the beach or at the pool with a book and music.

Hostly Warriors investigates and combats nonhuman entities in cases where demonic forces are confirmed.

Q: Talk about your paranormal groups and their mission.

Stephanie: My current teammates are Terry and Mary. We all complement each other with our strengths and gifts. Both Terry and Mary are strong independent individuals with both a natural curiosity for the paranormal and the ability to see the opportunity for error. We work extremely well as a team.

Our mission statements are the same for each team. We are compassionate, caring, and respectful of people and spirits of God. We believe spirits have free will like we do. We also believe they retain the personalities and emotions they had in life. This is something we always try to remember when we investigate — that we are dealing with souls deserving of the same decency and kindness we believe we deserve from others.

We also look for nonhuman spirits. They can cause great harm physically and emotionally to us, so we need to recognize and act accordingly. I've been instantaneously dropped to my knees by being attacked via sickness and have experienced five double tire blowouts on my way to cases.

We take pride in all we do. We value integrity and character. Our investigations are technology-based with state-of-the-art scientific equipment. We also feel it's crucial to approach each case from a scientific research and practical point of view, eliminating all other explanations for reported activity. Our priority is our clients and their welfare. We are there every step of the way until the client feels safe and their home is restored to one of peace.

We do not charge for our services; however, we do ask that questionnaires are filled out as truthfully and thoroughly as possible. The information given allows us to know what we need to efficiently and effectively investigate, be safe, and cleanse the home. We have a strict policy of anonymity — nothing regarding the client's identity will ever be disclosed unless given permission.

Helping earthbound spirits cross over is a part of our regiment. We invite the clients to participate in the cleansing, as they need to take back their home from the activity and entities. We do ask, unless there is a specific reason, that children have alternate plans during the investigations and cleansing. There are a lot of instances where they are the target of attacks, and we do not want to traumatize them or make them fearful.

Q: What first drew you to the paranormal field, and how did your spiritual calling lead to the founding of Supernatural Seekers Paranormal Investigations?

Stephanie: In college, I had a boyfriend that had a bad motorcycle cycle accident and he was killed. There were two things that I have carried with me to this day that have had an enormous impact on my life. The first was I was supposed to be on the back of the motorcycle that day, and something made me back out. Second, I remember asking him repeatedly to put on his helmet. Something was nagging at me. I later found out that he unfortunately never did.

For three nights after the accident, I would awaken with a white opaque figure standing in front of my bed. I would try to get up to turn on the light, but it was blocked. Finally, on the third night, my roommate awoke and saw the situation and verified it for me. Strangely enough, the day of the funeral it all ended.

I have carried these experiences with me through the years. I was busy raising kids until I discovered one day I had an empty nest and the pulling of the passion

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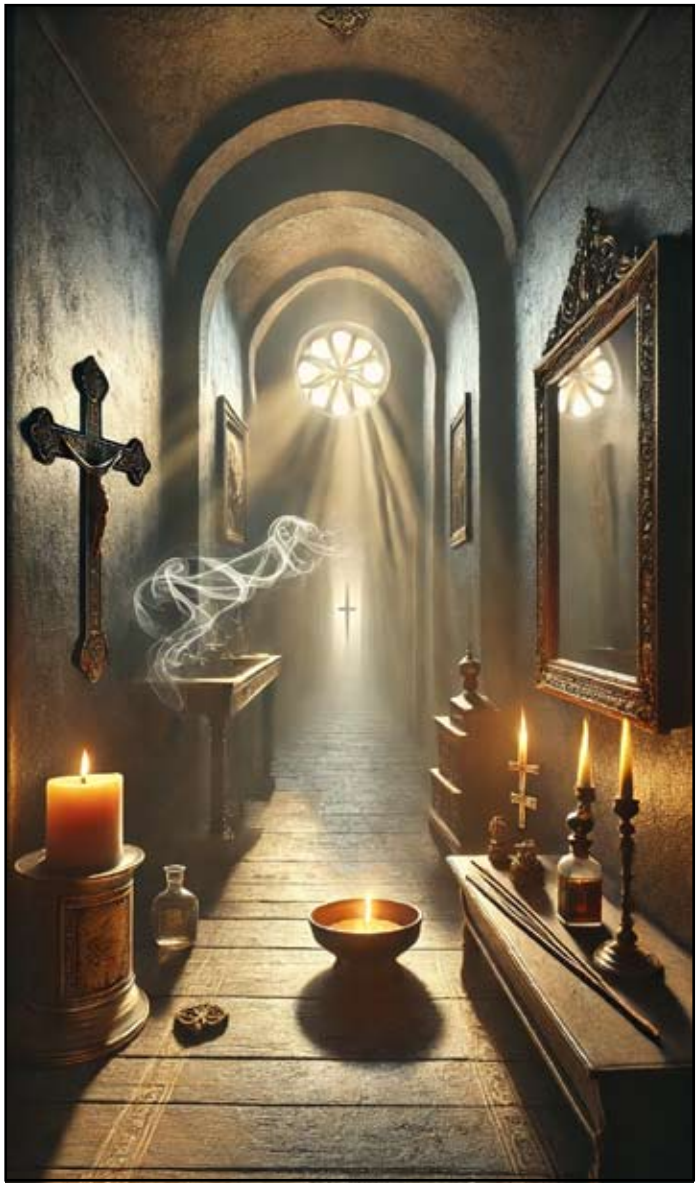

For over 15 years, Stephanie Brady has combined science, faith, and compassion to investigate the paranormal — from restless spirits to malevolent forces — helping families reclaim peace in their homes.

was stronger than ever. That is when I joined a team, and everything just progressed from there.

Q: What is the difference between Hostly Warriors and Supernatural Seekers Paranormal Investigations?

Stephanie: Supernatural Seekers aims to document and debunk. It is designed to figure out exactly what the issue is and if we can deal with it. We teach the clients how to take back their domain. We investigate spirit haunts, cross over spirits, and deal with some evil spirits. For instance, if you have a bad personality, anger, or are an evil person in life, you will keep the same characteristics when you die. It is free will and up to the person if they want to improve, stay the same, or grow.

Hostly Warriors focuses on nonhuman entities. Entities that have never walked this earth. This team is for situations where everything has been tried, tested, and the entity has been proven to be demonic. Each client must fill out a questionnaire, make a required Zoom call, and present a physical and mental evaluation from a qualified professional.

Q: You describe your work as God working through you — can you talk about what that experience is like for you during an exorcism or cleansing?

Stephanie: I believe that I am a conduit of God, especially during a cleansing or an exorcism. I must constantly "check my ego" with prayer and meditation and remind myself of this. I go into a sort of meditative prayerful state so that I am in work mode to eradicate evil and do God's work.

Then it is almost methodical that I know what to do instinctively and intuitively. There are steps, but the feeling is hard to put into words.

There is no fear, for this is one of God's given gifts so that I can do his work. It is a calm, peaceful yet forceful feeling that overcomes me. There is no hate or anger. I was taught never to hate the demonic entity — if anything to feel sorry for them for going against God and knowing what their fate will be.

The work is to get it done all for the glory of God and the knowledge that you are forever making an impact on somebody's eternal life.

Q: How do you approach cases that involve children or families who are emotionally overwhelmed by the activity in their homes?

Stephanie: A lot of times when they reach us, they feel like we are their last hope and that they will never be free. Our immediate job is to offer reassurance and compassion. Children are always, in my book, considered an emergency case that takes precedence. They are the ones who are the weakest and, thus, the ones the demonic go through in which to enter a household.

Demonic entities often present themselves as a child so that they can relate to and develop a friendship with the children. They will then ask them if they can stay or come into the home. Once the child says yes, the real trouble begins. Until I can get there to help them, I give them as much emotional and physical support as possible. Hope-

fully, they are nearby, or I can refer them to someone, because these cases are a true emergency.

Q: Your work bridges both spiritual faith and scientific methodology. How do you balance those two approaches in your investigations?

Stephanie: Primarily, I look to debunk whichever way I can. This includes a required physical and/or mental clearance. I insist on a meeting in person or by video call. I can tell/feel a lot by looking at a person and seeing their mannerisms, etc. I also have an extensive questionnaire I have the client fill out that provides a great amount of information.

I hate to say this, but usually the client only provides 25% of the truth. No matter what I say, people fear being judged. The more information I have, the easier I can solve the problem and better protect not just the client, but me as well.

Supernatural Seekers is dedicated to documenting and debunking spirit activity with compassion and scientific rigor.

Once I get there, a short investigation goes a long way. The rest of the process encompasses faith and what I feel from the Lord. I have several ways that I personally feel evil, including through "cobwebs," headaches, and heaviness, so I rely heavily on these feelings and, of course, faith and prayers.

Q: Can you walk us through what typically happens during a full spiritual cleansing or home exorcism, from arrival to resolution?

Stephanie: Cleansing is almost the same for a spiritual cleansing and an exorcist cleansing. The main difference is that during a spiritual cleanse, I require the clients to come with me room by room and take back their domain. With an exorcism cleanse, the clients may or may not be there because God is taking back the domain.

We start in a typical cleanse from the furthest part of the home and work our way to the front door, the goal being to push the entities out of the house. We start off by always taking the batteries out or covering up the smoke alarms. We've had cases where the fire department has shown up, and we would like to avoid that.

We never burn sage. I believe sage makes evil entities, especially demonic entities, angry. I use a palo santo, frankincense, and myrrh mask mixture. The goal is to make the smoke so heavy you can "swim through it." We start in the first room with a smudge, put a cross of anointing oil above every opening, door, window, fireplace, and especially mirrors, as they are notorious for being portals and are extremely dangerous. We make sure that no mirrors in the house face each other.

We say a cleansing prayer with the client, and as we leave the room, we saturate the room and closets with holy water. We do this in every room until we get to the front door, where we then push the entity out with one final prayer. I used to use salt but then learned it can take more than one cleanse/exorcism for the entities to leave, and I am afraid of locking entities in the dwelling.

As far as the exorcism is concerned, the procedure is the same but without the client. It is important to do the exorcism of the dwelling first, because you want to eradicate every demon in the house. Demons can hide, for example, on the wall, and once you exorcise the person it can jump right back on the person. To do a personal exorcism/deliverance, you first have to bring the demonic force out. There are several ways to do this. It can take minutes or hours to eradicate the entity. We use prayers in Latin — they hate this — having the person say, "I love Jesus," three times, and many other prayers.

It is amazing that the demonic really do have superhuman strength. During one case, I could not hold down a man's hand alone without help. I have had five to six clients tell me that after they were exorcised, when the demonic was out in the forefront, that they were in Hell being watched by demons. They said Hell had fire and was cold. Now these people didn't know each other or live close to each other but described the same thing. It is something that has stuck in my mind since then.

Q: You emphasize that spirits keep free will and personality. How does that belief influence the way you interact with entities during a case?

Stephanie: I treat them with dignity, respect, and compassion, as I would everyone else. I cannot even imag-

→

ine what is it is like to be "stuck." They're there, in my opinion, because they did not go into the light. This was on purpose because they were scared, didn't realize they were dead, or had an attachment to a person or thing — even if it was a vendetta.

I try to convince them to cross over, gently telling them they're no longer alive. I feel bad that I cannot convince them all. They do have free will and have their reasons. I do talk to them if I have an issue with them coexisting with the client. I must reason with them, asking them to coexist peacefully — the clients will not bother them and vice versa.

Spirits keep their free will — and Stephanie treats them with dignity and compassion.

Usually, that works with some exceptions. I have had to come back and be firmer.

Q: What has been one of the most difficult or spiritually intense cases you've encountered, and how did you navigate it?

Stephanie: The most difficult case I would say would be an elemental spirit of the Earth. He telepathically told me he was a dwarf. He would not communicate using EVPs. He communicated using the REM-POD indicating a yes or no response.

At one point, I asked him if he was a dwarf. I had 7 REM-POD or equivalent equipment at the location that all went off simultaneously. I had my answer. I am not sure how long this has been going on. I only know my clients have been struggling for the last seven years. It would attack their sleep, spending the night pulling their hair, jumping on the bed, or anything to bother them.

I stayed late to film the clients and saw orbs hit them; they immediately started thrashing about. I left to go home around 2 AM and my car battery was dead. While I was waiting for AAA, my headlights started flashing, my horn and electrical panel went crazy, and the radio began scrolling on its own. I kept trying to turn it off, but I couldn't. A girlfriend finally came to help me out.

We tried everything, from offerings to exorcising the home, but the dwarf wasn't giving. That was his home. My theory is that the house was built on his house, and he was staying. I worked on that case for two years. I still keep in touch with the family.

Q: How do you protect yourself — physically, emotionally, and spiritually — when dealing with negative or demonic forces?

Stephanie: First, I make sure that I am grounded to the earth. Then I visualize light from the heavens coming down and filling me and covering me so I'm invisible to the enemy. This is all obviously done through visualization.

I go to church and do confession, and I ask for protection from God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Most of all, though, I pray and make sure that I'm emotionally stable. By that I mean not angry — not any negative emotions. That's important because they will feed upon that and then use it against you.

Physically, I make sure I'm well-nourished that week and fast on the day I do the case. I always wear my St. Benedict medal and my miraculous Mary medal. I believe all of those have saved me, kept me free harm, and helped me through very scary situations. For some reason, they attacked my car one year, and I had five double tire blowouts.

One night, I hit something, and my bumper was hanging by a thread. I had an angel with me that night. I had an hour-and-a-half drive home. I fretted the whole way holding my breath. Realistically, the bumper should not have held on, but it did right up until I pulled into the driveway. Then it fell off. I believe I'm somewhat divinely protected.

Q: For people experiencing unexplained phenomena, what are the first steps you recommend they take before calling in professional help like yours?

Stephanie: Please do not Google and do it yourself. There's a possibility of making it worse and/or getting hurt. A lot of people will suggest sage, but from my experience sage can anger spirits and potentially could make it worse. Stop doing anything paranormal: no videos, EVPs, Ouija boards, etc. Don't even watch paranormal shows.

Call a professional team that knows what they are doing and preferably a team that doesn't charge. Ask them directly if they do cleanses. Sometimes, teams will come in and amp up energy and then leave. Read reviews, call people, and find quality help.

The first steps are to stop everything paranormal. Turn off all your monitoring devices, like cameras, so you are not tempted to look at footage.

* * * * *

For more information about Stephanie and her paranormal teams, visit the Supernatural Seekers and Hostly Warriors websites, as well as her Instagram and Facebook pages for Supernatural Seekers and Hostly Warriors. ◆

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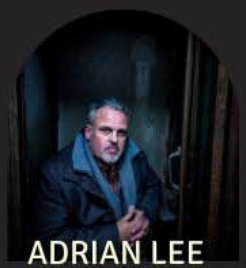

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Unexplained Sounds

Highlight the World's Most Intriguing Soundscapes

By Brian Haughton, Phenomena Magazine

From secret Russian signals, to the bizarre hum of ancient statues, to sonic booms and intriguing interference, our world is plagued by unexplained noises. Scientists continue to be perplexed about these seemingly paranormal sounds, and there are no clues as yet as to who or what might be making them.

Here are five fascinating examples of extremely weird sounds.

'The Buzzer' — A Secret Russian Signal

Broadcasting at 4,625Mhz, a strange, repeating radio signal called UVB-76, and also known as "The Buzzer," has been transmitting beeps, buzzes, and occasional human voices 24 hours a day for the past 35 years. Initially, the broadcasts seemed to be coming from somewhere near Moscow but have since moved to the vicinity of St. Petersburg.

There are a number of theories to explain what the Buzzer might be for — from contacting submarines, communing with aliens, communicating secret messages to members of the Russian military, or that it acts as a "Dead Hand." If the latter explanation were true, it would mean that in the event that Russia is hit by a nuclear attack, the drone signal would stop and automatically trigger a retaliation.

The signal is thought to emanate from the Russian military, and there have even been suggestions of a connection with the series of arrests of alleged Russian agents across the United States in 2010. According to the FBI this is a "long-term, deep cover" network of Russian spies who were said to have received their instructions via coded messages on short wave radio — specifically 7,887 kHz. However, no one has ever claimed responsibility for the UVB- 76 radio signal, and experts are still baffled as to what it might represent.

"There's absolutely no information in the signal," said David Stupples, an expert in signals intelligence from City University, London.

"The Buzzer," or UVB-76, is a decades-old Russian shortwave radio signal that has baffled experts with its endless beeps, buzzes, and mysterious purpose.

Upsweep

Upsweep is an unidentified sound first detected in 1991 by the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory using SOSUS — an underwater sound surveillance system with listening stations around the world. The sound, which resembles a car alarm and seems to oscillates between frequencies, is at a high enough level to be recorded throughout the Pacific Ocean in spring and autumn.

"Upsweep" is a mysterious, seasonal underwater sound detected across the Pacific since 1991, with origins speculated to be linked to volcanic activity but still unexplained.

According to the Laboratory, the sound "consists of a long train of narrow-band upsweeping sounds of several seconds duration each." The source location of the sound has been extremely difficult to identify, but it is certainly in the Pacific, around halfway between Australia and South America. Upsweep appears to be seasonal, reaching its peak loudest in spring and autumn, though it isn't clear whether this is due to changes in the source or seasonal changes in the environment.

The source can be roughly located at 54°S 140°W, near the location of probable seismicity, thus leading to the theory is that it is somehow caused by volcanic activity. It has been noted that the overall source level has been declining since 1991, though its origin still remains unexplained.

The Colossi of Memnon

The Colossi of Memnon are two monumental statues representing the Pharaoh Amenhotep III (1386–1353 BC) of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt. They are located to the west of the modern Egyptian city of Luxor and face east toward the River Nile. The huge figures are 60 feet high and weigh 720 tons each, and both are from single blocks of sandstone.

According to the Greek historian and geographer Strabo in 27 BC, a powerful earthquake caused the top half of the northern statue to collapse, which resulted in a very strange phenomenon.

What Strabo is describing is that one of the statues began to "sing" inexplicably after the earthquake damage. The singing was in fact an eerie light moaning or whistling sound that was heard each morning as the sun rose.

A number of other ancient writers noted the singing statue, and there is still graffiti at the base that records whether a particular visitor heard or did not hear the sound. Greek and Roman travelers associated the colossi with Memnon, a legendary Ethiopian king and warrior who fought in the Trojan War and was the son of Tithonus and Eos. According to these early travelers, the "singing" of the colossus was said to be Eos mourning for her dead son.

The news of the magical statue soon spread, and

The Colossi of Memnon are two massive statues near Luxor, one of which mysteriously "sang" at sunrise after earthquake damage, captivating ancient travelers and inspiring legends.

people from all classes of society and regions traveled long distances to the site to ask questions and hope for the oracle's answer. The statues became a popular tourist attraction and continued to be so until the Roman emperor Septimus Severus visited in either 196 or 199 AD and heard nothing. In a desperate attempt to help the oracle along, he had the northern statue repaired, after which the sounds stopped completely.

The mundane natural explanation for this phenomenon is that the strange sound emanating from the statue was caused by the increasing heat of the morning causing the dew inside the porous rock to evaporate, thus making the statue "sing." But some would prefer to believe that Eos is still mourning for her dead son in the sands of Egypt.

The 'Wow!' Signal

The Wow! Signal, a strong narrowband radio signal, was detected by astronomer Jerry Ehman on August 15, 1977, at the Big Ear Radio Observatory in Ohio, during a search for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence. At the time, the telescope was pointing toward a grouping of stars called Chi Sagittarii; Ehman was so taken aback with the signal that he circled it on the print readout and wrote: "Wow!"

Analysis of the signal showed that it displayed all the characteristics of coming from interstellar space, and it soon became something of a controversial subject, especially for those involved in SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. But the problem is that despite many attempts, the signal has never been observed again and so remains unexplained, despite claims that it was caused by an alien transmission — or perhaps by a star.

However, recent work by Professor Antonio Paris of St. Petersburg College, Florida, may have solved the mystery. Paris found that two comets, known as 266P/Christensen and 335P/Gibbs, were both passing through the part of the sky that the Big Ear Radio Observatory was surveying in 1977, where the 'Wow!' signal had come from.

Paris and his team believe that the hydrogen cloud accompanying one of the comets could have caused the signal. Significantly the 'Wow!' signal itself was detected at 1,420MHz, which is a radio frequency that hydrogen naturally emits. This theory would also explain why the signal was not detected again as the comet that caused it had moved on in its orbit.

The comet hypothesis has been met with strong criticism, though, particularly from members of the original Big Ear research team. More detailed analysis of the theory shows the comets in question were not in the surveyed area at the correct time. Furthermore, comets not do not emit significant amounts of radio waves at these frequencies. So, for the moment at least, it seems the Wow! signal remains unexplained.

The 'Ping'

In 2016, a mysterious "pinging" noise was heard coming from the sea floor in one of Canada's northernmost territories. The sound was heard in the Fury and Hecla Strait, a channel of water in the Nunavut region of Canada. The Canadian Department of National Defense was informed of the strange noises and launched an investigation into their origins, but to no avail.

Local hunters in the remote Arctic region claimed that the pinging sound was driving wildlife away. Legislative assembly member George Qulaut told *CBC News* that the mysterious sound's potential effect on wildlife was concerning.

"That passage is a migratory route for bowhead whales and also bearded seals and ringed seals. There would be so many in that particular area," Qulaut said, recalling his own days of hunting there. "This summer, there were none."

According to local authorities, no territorial permits were issued for work, such as construction, blasting, or hydrography, in the area that could explain the noise. The military also ruled out the presence of both domestic and foreign submarines in the area. The Department of National Defense promised to take "the appropriate steps" to investigate the noise, but remained equally baffled.

"The cause of the pings remains mired in mystery," a spokesman said. ◆

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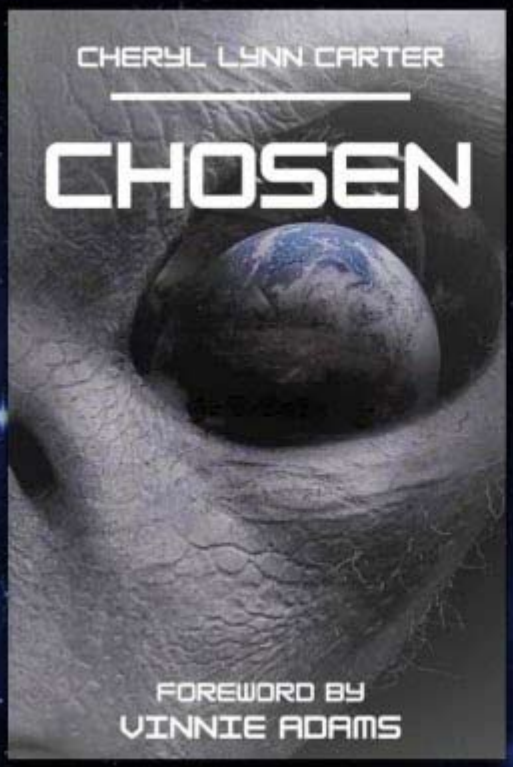

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Five Places That Give Me the Chills

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

Some places have an atmosphere that feels different the moment you arrive. It's not just history or architecture — it's a weight in the air, a chill on the skin, or a sense of being watched when no one is around. As a paranormal investigator, I've learned to pay attention to those subtle signs, because they often point to stories that linger far beyond the grave.

Over the years, through research, stories shared by family, and a few personal visits of my own, I've come across several locations that radiate this kind of unsettling energy. These sites are steeped in tragedy, myth, and unexplained activity. Whether tied to a tormented spirit, a cursed legend, or an eerie presence, each one has left a lasting impression.

What follows are five places that deliver a whole lot of chills. From castles in Europe to a saloon in Alaska, these haunted destinations stand out not only for their beauty and history, but for the mysteries that still seem to walk their halls and echo through their walls.

Classiebawn Castle in Ireland carries a chilling presence, where visitors report cold touches and uneasy sensations. Some believe the restless ghost of Lord Louis Mountbatten still lingers within its walls.

Classiebawn Castle, Ireland

When my family and I visited Classiebawn Castle, we immediately felt its haunted reputation. In certain parts of the castle, cold chills swept over us. My stepson Jason asked if I had grabbed his shoulder. When I said no, he replied, "Well, somebody did."

Locals say that after the tragic death of Lord Louis Mountbatten, his ghost began appearing at the castle. Mountbatten was assassinated in 1979 when the IRA detonated a bomb on his fishing boat in Mullaghmore. Witnesses describe his ghost as a tormented figure, shaking his head in disbelief, his face showing shock and surprise. Could it have been Lord Mountbatten who touched Jason? It's possible.

Bled Castle & Lake Bled, Slovenia

According to legend, the lush valley around Lake Bled was once inhabited by fairies who clashed with local shepherds when grazing animals destroyed the valley's beauty. Angered, the fairies flooded the valley, forcing survivors onto Bled Island. Even today, some visitors claim to see fairy-like figures near the castle or island after most tourists leave.

Another famous tale centers on the "Sunken Bell." In the 16th century, a grieving widow ordered a bell for the island's church after her husband was murdered and thrown into the lake. The transport boat capsized, and the bell was lost forever. Some claim to see the widow's husband appear waist-deep in the lake.

A replacement bell, later blessed by Pope Clement VII (1523–1534), still hangs in the Church of the Assumption of Mary. Ringing it three times while making a wish is said to bring good fortune.

Belém Tower, Lisbon, Portugal

Belém Tower (Torre de Belém), built between 1514 and 1519, has long been linked with eerie tales. The dungeons are said to be haunted by prisoners from Portugal's past. Some visitors report hearing whips cracking, muffled screams, whispers, and even feeling phantom touches.

Legends also tell of hidden chambers and tunnels beneath the tower, supposedly filled with treasures from Portugal's colonial expeditions. Though no evidence has ever been found, the stories persist.

Another tale speaks of a tragic love between a Portuguese soldier and a Moorish princess. Forbidden to be together, they supposedly appear hand-in-hand on the grounds before fading into nothingness.

Ronda, Province of Málaga, Spain

The Province of Málaga is full of haunted legends. One of the most infamous sites is Cortijo Jurado, often called "Spain's most haunted house." Built in the 19th century, it is surrounded by dark stories of secret tunnels, satanic rites, and the disappearance of young girls, who were said to have been tortured. Locals and tourists report nightly screams, and the tunnels have since been sealed by authorities.

Another tale involves the "Rock of Lovers" (La Peña de los Enamorados). In the 15th century, during the Reconquista, a Christian soldier and a Moorish noblewoman tried to flee together against her father's wishes. Pursued by soldiers, the couple threw themselves from the rock to remain united in death. Their apparitions are sometimes seen reenacting this tragic leap.

In Ronda itself, the ruined Casa Rúa (also known as Villa Apolo) carries its own horrors. Stories claim a young girl of the Rúa family was brutally murdered in the tower. Her parents' anguished screams are said to echo through the night, and her ghost still haunts the site, searching for justice.

Juneau, Alaska

Juneau is no stranger to hauntings. At the Red Dog Saloon on S. Franklin Street, established in the late 19th century during Alaska's gold rush, patrons speak of a mischievous cowboy ghost who pinches unsuspecting women. Others say they've seen a red-haired female spirit who manifests in the ladies' restroom.

Juneau also lies within the infamous "Alaska Triangle," a region known for mysterious disappearances. Among its haunted sites is the Alaskan Hotel, which opened in 1913 and is the city's oldest. Featured on shows such as *The Alaska Triangle* and *Portals to Hell*, it has several notoriously haunted rooms.

Belém Tower in Portugal is said to echo with the screams and whispers of long-lost prisoners. Legends of hidden treasure and a tragic forbidden love only deepen its haunted mystique.

In Room 315, a man's apparition silently stares before vanishing. Room 219 is haunted by "Alice," a woman said to move objects and steal towels. The bar is haunted by two ghostly mountain men who sometimes knock over drinks. In the basement, the ghost of a man who drowned in a hot tub appears wrapped in a towel before fading away.

Echoes That Refuse to Fade

Whether rooted in folklore, tragedy, or unexplained encounters, these places remind us that history doesn't always rest quietly. The echoes of the past linger in whispers, cold touches, and fleeting apparitions, leaving us to wonder if some stories are simply too strong to fade away.

For me, these haunted sites stand as more than landmarks — they are intersections of memory, myth, and mystery. Each carries an energy that stirs both curiosity and caution, drawing us closer while reminding us of the thin veil between the living and whatever lies beyond. ◆

THE ZANFRETTA UFO INCIDENT

Italy's Most Frightening Alien Abduction Case

By Chad Wilson

On a freezing December night in 1978, the quiet village of Torriglia, Italy, became the backdrop for one of Europe's strangest UFO cases. Security guard Pier Fortunato Zanfretta's routine patrol spiraled into a nightmare that would haunt him for years and captivate investigators worldwide.

Zanfretta, a 26-year-old husband and father of two, was on routine patrol when the bizarre began. Driving to check on a client's villa, his car suddenly stalled — lights, radio, and engine all dead. That was the moment he noticed strange lights moving in the garden.

Believing burglars were at work, he grabbed his revolver and flashlight. Creeping closer, he prepared to confront thieves. Instead, he turned and found himself face-to-face with something utterly inhuman: a towering green creature, nearly 10 feet tall, with undulating skin and monstrous yellow eyes.

Mysterious lights and towering beings: The 1978 Zanfretta incident still stands as Italy's most chilling UFO abduction case.

The UFO in the Garden

The entity wore what appeared to be a breathing device over its face. Terrified, Zanfretta dropped his flashlight but managed to grab it again before sprinting back toward his vehicle. As he ran, a massive triangular craft rose behind the villa, glowing brilliantly and radiating intense heat.

Overwhelmed, Zanfretta radioed his security company, frantically describing "ugly, inhuman beings." Then the line went dead. Fellow guards rushed to his location and found him an hour later, lying on the frozen ground, disoriented, clothes strangely warm despite the icy night.

The police were quickly called. Investigators discovered enormous horseshoe-shaped impressions in the frosted grass, each nine feet across. Even more unsettling, more than 50 villagers reported seeing a bright light in the sky at the same time Zanfretta claimed the UFO ascended.

Unlike many witnesses dismissed as eccentrics, Zanfretta was considered stable, even timid. His commanding officer vouched for his reliability, insisting, "Only something exceptional could have frightened him so." The case drew national media attention, though journalists mocked him relentlessly.

One reporter, Rino di Stefano, took Zanfretta seriously. He believed the guard had nothing to gain by fabricating such a tale. In fact, Zanfretta dreaded the attention, telling Di Stefano: "I don't know what it was I saw, but I saw it. I am not a liar."

To uncover the truth, Zanfretta underwent hypnosis on December 23, 1978. Under the guidance of Dr. Mauro Moretti, he recalled being abducted into a luminous environment where the beings examined and questioned him. They claimed to be from the planet Teetonia, warning they would return in larger numbers.

→

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Pictured above, left: Pier Fortunato Zanfretta at the time of the UFO incident. Above, right: Zanfretta gives officers his eyewitness account of "ugly inhuman beings." (Photos: *Guardie Giurate News*)

The Second Abduction

The story might have ended there, but Zanfretta's encounters continued. On December 26, just weeks after his first abduction, he radioed in sheer panic as his patrol car seemed to drive itself through a tunnel before halting in a blinding white light.

Later, he was discovered in shock, his clothes again oddly warm. Zanfretta wept, saying: "They say I must leave with them. What about my children?" Investigators found his revolver fired five times, though he could not recall why. They also uncovered giant boot-like prints near the car.

The Italian military police forwarded a full report, even informing the Department of the Interior. While officials quietly shelved the case, they rated the reliability of the events as "good." Meanwhile, UFO sightings across Italy surged, fueling public unease.

For Zanfretta, the nightmare deepened. He was abducted again in July 1979, lifted by a green light into another ship. Under sodium pentothal — so-called "truth serum" — he repeated the claim. Doctors overseeing the session confirmed they believed he was not lying.

Witnesses Share the Fear

By late 1979, multiple guards also witnessed bizarre craft. During one sighting, a lieutenant fired his pistol at a glowing object in the clouds. The stress proved too much for one guard, Germano Zanardi, who later took his own life.

Then came the strangest encounter of all. In December 1979, Zanfretta reported meeting a tall, humanoid figure in a checkered suit with a steel chest plate. The being ordered him to drive into a hovering cloud, transporting him and his car into a vast alien vessel.

Inside, he saw massive transparent tanks filled with bizarre creatures — a frog-like being, a bird-like monster, and even something resembling a caveman. The aliens tried to gift him a glowing sphere, intended for American UFO researcher J. Allen Hynek, though Zanfretta claimed he hid it instead.

Through hypnosis and interviews, more unsettling details emerged. He described being fitted with a painful helmet to understand their language and begged not to be taken from his children. "You are horrible," he cried out during one televised session, watched by thousands.

A Case That Refuses to Fade

Over time, Zanfretta endured at least five abductions. Each left physical traces — burned car roofs, giant footprints, or multiple witnesses to strange lights. Despite ridicule, neurologists and police alike testified that he was sane and not prone to fantasies.

The case has never been conclusively explained. Some suggest mass hysteria, others elaborate hoaxing. Yet with dozens of corroborating witnesses, physical anomalies, and Zanfretta's clear distress, many still see it as one of the strongest alien abduction accounts ever recorded.

To this day, the Zanfretta Incident remains Italy's most famous UFO case. Whether evidence of interstellar visitors or a deeply human psychological ordeal, it stands as a chilling reminder: Sometimes the night hides things we are not prepared to face. ◆

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THE JORŌGUMO

JAPAN'S DEADLY SPIDER SPIRIT

By Corey Sharer

Japanese folklore is filled with supernatural beings, from protective household spirits to terrifying monsters that haunt the night. Among these creatures, few are as captivating and deadly as the Jorōgumo, a legendary spider yokai — a supernatural creature from Japanese folklore — that blends beauty with danger.

Known as the "binding bride" or "entangling bride," the Jorōgumo is a shape-shifting spider demon that lures unsuspecting victims with its charm before trapping them in a web of no return.

Origins in Folklore

The legend of the Jorōgumo has roots in Edo-period Japan, when tales of yokai flourished in art and storytelling. The name itself comes from "jorō," which can mean a prostitute or courtesan, and "gumo" (kumo), meaning spider. This dual meaning reflects the creature's reputation as both alluring and deadly.

Folklorists describe the Jorōgumo as a spider that, upon reaching 400 years of age, gains the ability to transform into a beautiful woman. In this form, she uses her beauty to deceive and ensnare men, dragging them into her lair to feast upon them.

As a supernatural entity, the Jorōgumo is most often depicted as a stunning woman with long hair and elegant robes, sometimes with subtle hints of her spider nature, such as eight legs hidden beneath her kimono or glowing eyes. In some versions of the tale, she can summon and control smaller spiders to aid in capturing prey. Legends also suggest she can weave magical webs strong enough to bind even the strongest warriors.

Her most frightening power, however, lies in her ability to manipulate desire. By appearing as a gentle, enchanting woman, she draws men into her company. Once entranced, her victims rarely notice the transformation until it is too late — when the Jorōgumo reveals her true monstrous form.

Famous Legends

One of the most well-known stories of the Jorōgumo is tied to Jōren Falls in Shizuoka Prefecture. According to local folklore, many men vanished mysteriously after visiting the waterfall. It was believed the Jorōgumo lived there, disguising herself as a woman who lured travelers to the falls before entangling them in her web and dragging them beneath the water. To this day, the falls remain associated with her legend, with signs reminding visitors of the ancient tale.

Another version tells of a samurai who encountered a beautiful woman playing a biwa (a traditional Japanese lute). Sensing something was amiss, he attacked, only to discover that she was a monstrous spider in disguise. Though he survived, the tale reinforced the Jorōgumo's reputation as a dangerous deceiver.

The Jorōgumo is more than just a frightening yokai; she represents themes of temptation, lust, and betrayal. In many ways, she embodies fears of seduction and manipulation, particularly in a society where courtesans were both admired and distrusted.

Today, the Jorōgumo remains a popular figure in Japanese horror stories, manga, and film. Her dual nature — both beautiful and monstrous — makes her a timeless symbol of the dangers hidden beneath alluring appearances. ◆

Maxim W. Furek

Pennsylvania's Iconoclastic

Paranormal Author

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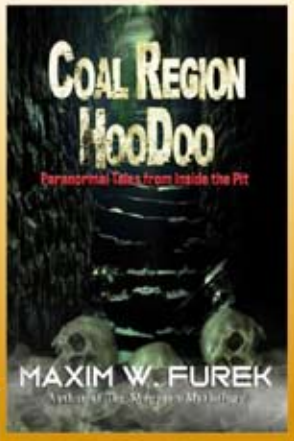

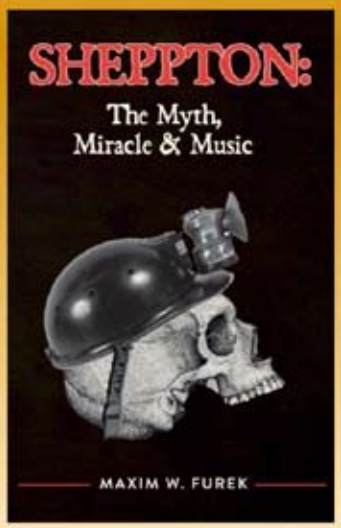

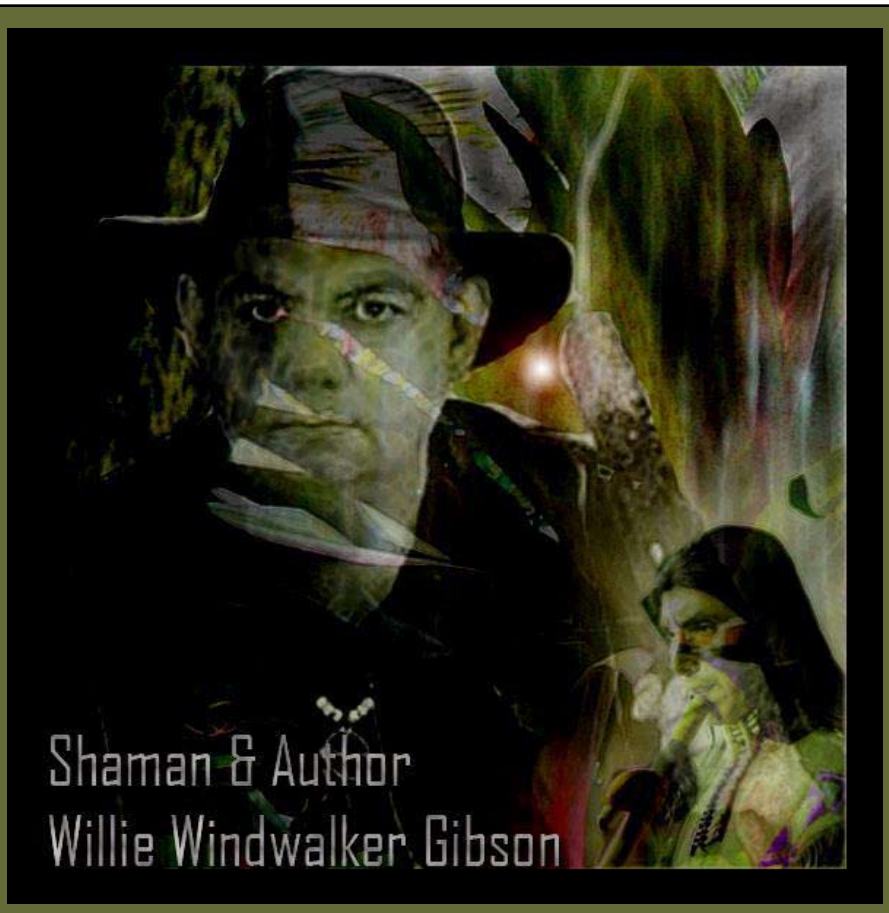

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THE DEVOURER OF SOULS

A MODERN ENCOUNTER WITH AN ANCIENT DEMON

By T Stokes

Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin, spiritual teacher George Gurdjieff, and esoteric philosopher Pyotr Ouspensky were towering figures of their era. As a teenager, I immersed myself in their teachings, searching for a way to understand my own abilities.

Ouspensky once said the human mind is like an iceberg — nine-tenths hidden beneath the surface. Because of this, he argued that the mind is nine times larger, more relevant, and more powerful than we realize. The waking state, he believed, is only a dream compared with the true depth of consciousness.

From birth, I found myself able to leave my body instantly. Much of my life unfolded in this dream state — traveling, learning, even loving — while the waking world felt like a place where I merely drifted and rested. That changed the day my spirit guide confronted me, saying: "You are not here for this. You cannot just abandon your waking life — you have work to do here." From that moment, I resolved to stay grounded.

One of my closest companions, a soul I have known across lifetimes, continues her work in the dream state. She journeys to Palestine, offering comfort to children trapped beneath rubble and despair. But such work is dangerous, fraught with unseen trials. Spirits of the lower realms prey on the dead and dying, and they are not to be underestimated.

Recently, my friend went out alone. Later, near dawn, her spirit returned to me, drained and exhausted, as she always does in case she has been followed. That morning, I sensed something dark pursuing her — a presence vast and unpleasant. It appeared to me as a dull green shape coiled on the seabed, its thoughts pressing against my mind.

Suddenly, noises echoed in my room. The air thickened with the smell of rotting seaweed. Then it was there — a massive head, a single enormous eye fixed upon me. Terror swept through me. I repeated the words I use in exorcisms: "In the name of God, go to your place of rest."

Slowly, it withdrew, sinking back into the deep, curling once more upon the seabed.

I could not sleep after that. In meditation, I recalled a drawing from Jacques Collin de Plancy's *Dictionnaire Infernal*, the 19th-century compendium of demonology. The creature was there, named "The Devourer of Souls."

Though my home is sealed, protected, and "pentaclized," I have always left one space deliberately unguarded — a channel where danger must reveal itself. It saves me from watching every corner. But after this, I wonder if it is time to seal it completely.

My friend from other lives slept in my arms while all this unfolded. Yet that monstrous eye remains seared into my memory — an image I know I will never forget. ◆

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THE OAKGREEN DEMON
A Haunting in Carmichael

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

On January 21, 2023, Halo Paranormal Investigations received an urgent request for help in Carmichael, California. The case file read like something out of a horror film:

"My roommate had a demon on top of him the other night holding him down," wrote Julie, the client. "He screamed at the demon to get off. Long story short, I had to evict a bad tenant a year ago. Now she lives next door. These people practice witchcraft and have been messing with me. Can you bring a medium to help?"

When our team arrived at the house on Oakgreen, it was clear the residence carried a heavy energy that demanded closer examination. Answering the call were a full roster of investigators, including me and my co-owner and psychic medium, Deanna Jaxine Stinson (aka Wish Fire). Alongside us were Valerie Chenoweth and Greg Sellers, both paranormal analysts; Alaceo "Big Al" Rosatano, EVP analyst; Catherine Marie Defazio, paranormal counselor; and two observers, Suzanne and Maddy.

With this mix of expertise, we were prepared to examine both the physical and spiritual layers of Julie's haunting claims.

This modest Carmichael home felt ordinary on the outside, but inside it pulsed with an atmosphere thickened by fear and unease.

The Walk-Through

Wish Fire began her sweep of the property, and almost immediately her impressions aligned with verifiable details inside the home. At one bedroom door, she sensed a Native American presence, and when the door was opened, a large dreamcatcher and a portrait of a Native American adorned the wall.

In the garage, she noted signs of raccoons nesting in the rafters, which Julie confirmed without hesitation. She then described the deceased former owner of a motorcycle stored there, another detail Julie validated.

Moving outside, Wish Fire mentioned a backyard puddle that had once teemed with frogs, which Julie again confirmed. In the same area, she identified what she believed to be a portal, marked in her vision by a witch's hat. Julie, who was already convinced her neighbor's witchcraft had cursed the home, paled at the revelation.

Near a bush thick with cobwebs, Wish Fire sensed energy gathering unnaturally, and at that spot we captured two EVPs. One was faint conversation, while the other was a Class A response, clearly saying, "I don't want to."

Wish Fire's accuracy lent weight to Julie's story and deepened the unsettling sense that something more than coincidence was at play.

Dividing the Teams

We split the house into two zones: indoors and outdoors. Big Al led one team inside while I handled the exterior. Each session ran for one hour before reconvening for a debrief. Evidence was reviewed, strategies adjusted,

and then the teams switched positions. The methodical approach allowed us to compare findings from separate groups and look for consistency — a cornerstone of credible paranormal investigation.

We deployed an array of investigative equipment, including digital recorders, still cameras, video cameras, EMF detectors, motion-activated cat balls, a BooBuddy Junior trigger object (nicknamed Detrick), Spirit Box, K-II Meter, and a rotating EMF light source.

These devices not only document phenomena, but also help establish patterns of interaction — whether that's an anomalous voice responding to a question or an EMF spike corresponding to an investigator's impression.

The Cleansing

With the investigation complete, we turned to restoration. Wish Fire prepared three eucalyptus smudge wands and a blessed candle. Together with Julie, I performed a Roman Catholic house blessing, moving from room to room with prayers and intent to cleanse.

We left Julie and her family with protective tools and guidance, but more importantly with renewed hope that her home could once again be a place of peace rather than fear.

Not every haunting involves demons, but the heavy presence at Julie's residence — coupled with direct claims of spiritual attack — required serious attention. Wish Fire's insights, the captured EVPs, and the emotional toll on the client all spoke to an environment deeply disturbed.

The HPI crew blends investigative skill with psychic insight and spiritual guidance.

In the end, the Oakgreen Demon case was about more than chasing shadows. It was about restoring balance for a family caught between neighbors, fear, and forces unseen. ◆

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FAMILY BY CANDLELIGHT

Where Dreams Become Family Reunions

By Rainbow Radaelli

The other day I walked outside, and as the wind tickled my nose, I smelled the first nuance of something that seemed faint, teasingly dancing around me. I thought to myself: *Could it be the first smell of fall, or is it just wishful thinking on my part?*

I was excited, and I decided right then and there I was going to start preparing for my family's All Hallows' Day. But there's a reason why, and I think it's one that I haven't shared with any of you yet: Just before I woke up on the day of my 62nd birthday this year, my great grandmother escorted me to another realm so I could meet my ancestral family. The realm I crossed into is one that I've now come to know as the In-Between.

Meeting My Great Grandmother

My great grandmother from my mother's side of the family was from Spain, and as I looked at her, I saw she was wearing her mantilla headdress draped in black, which shimmered as she moved. She was ethereal, almost mesmerizing, because her movements were fluid like a dancer yet she had a dignified presence to her. I loved that I came from her instantly.

Everything was in a candlelight ambiance, yet I could see clearly without needing to squint my eyes or fumble through the darkness. It was a beautiful light, one that almost touched my heart, bouncing off and out of me, almost making me a part of its illumination. The light and I were connected to each other.

I met cousins, men, and women who I had never heard of before. What was interesting was that they already knew who I was. My great grandmother said they watch us from where they reside. They know when we are getting ready to pass on, and they prepare for us just as we prepare here.

I was shown an old family photo album that my great grandmother pointed to, asking me to open it up and look through it. There were various sizes of photographs in black and white from the late 1800s to 1930s. I saw a photograph of a grocery store our family once owned and an old vintage convertible car surrounded by dapper men and women. I saw cowboys on horseback and women in beautiful attire that I wish I had in my closet today.

None of the photographs exist in this realm. My family's albums go back to just before my grandparents on both sides. Sadly, there are no photographs of my great grandmother. I had never seen her before. She was mesmerizing, but I have to say, she actually was very grainy, shadowed in a blurry gray that looked almost skeletal. Yet, I wasn't afraid of her at all; it was more a reverence for her.

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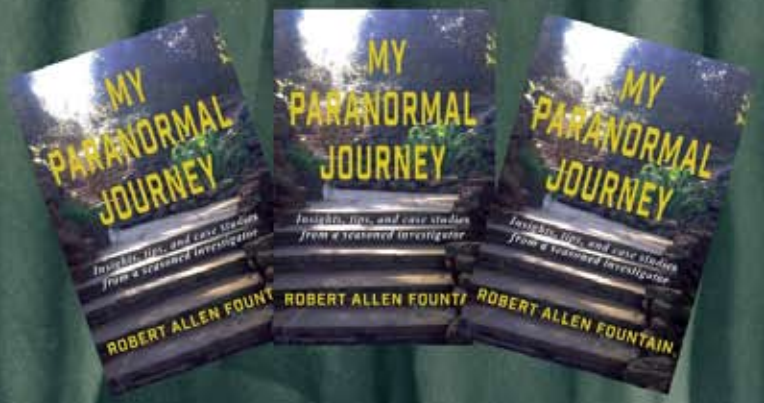

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An actual photo of Grandpa Willy. With his piercing blue eyes and quiet presence, he felt like both a stranger and a long-lost friend finally found.

She wanted me to know that our family went way back even further than I could imagine. There were numerous photo albums full of ancestors from all over the world on a table that appeared in front of me. The photo album I opened up included Spain and New Mexico. Every photograph featured a relative, each linked to me in one way or another.

I was connected to hundreds upon hundreds of ancestors. I had no words for what my soul was feeling at that moment. I realized that I was a part of a lineage that spanned centuries. I was gobsmacked!

My Family's Bed and Breakfast Inn

Next, my great grandmother led me into a 1950's-style adobe bed and breakfast that was a cross between Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* and the animated film *Coco*, produced by Pixar. It was painted in pale pinks and blues with a few cobwebs thrown in for good measure. I actually touched a cobweb and felt it on my hand. It felt just like I expected but a little more cotton candyish.

I found myself alone looking around in different rooms and ended up in the kitchen. It reminded me of the old kitchens of my childhood when I used to go visit my mom's family. The one thing that was missing was the smell of green chili enchiladas and tortillas cooking on the stove.

My great grandmother was nowhere to be found, and as I was looking around, I started to panic because I felt really alone. I started to call out to her when, all of a sudden, I stopped in my tracks. There on a wall in the living room was a painting of my great grandmother looking exactly as she had when she introduced herself to me.

It was as if she crawled into the painting, sitting dignified in her chair looking at me. I was a bit freaked out and sad that she was gone. The painting was eerily comforting, though, especially when she looked at me and smiled.

Meeting Grandpa Willy

Outside the bed and breakfast, I heard people talking as they walked by. I decided to go outside and noticed an old man coming into view. All of a sudden, I felt nervous for no reason. I walked over to him, and it dawned on me that he was someone I knew.

He came over to me, looking at me with his amazing blue eyes, and I realized he was my Grandfather William from my mother's side of the family. He invited me to have a cup of tea with him, so we ventured off to a bizarre and extremely odd outdoor cafe.

I ordered my tea from a strange man who looked like he was bored out of his mind with his job. He was dressed between a jester or acrobat, with an odd hat and haircut. He half-haphazardly handed me my cup of tea, looking at me as if I was a nuisance. I hurriedly left and looked around for my grandfather, but I couldn't find him anywhere.

I saw an older gentleman come into view with his back to me, and when I walked over to him, he turned around and smiled at me. I said, "Where did you go?" He answered, "Until you see me, I am invisible. You have to look at me in order for me to appear to you."

Grandpa Willy was a man of few words, and our small talk became like an informal light banter. We mostly sat in silence, but I was just happy to finally meet him as an adult. He died around the time I was born.

I eventually met a cousin who enthusiastically took my arm and ushered me toward a nearby town, but that story will have to wait for another time! I'll end this article with a friendly reminder that our ancestors never really leave us — they haunt us with love while keeping our family stories alive.◆

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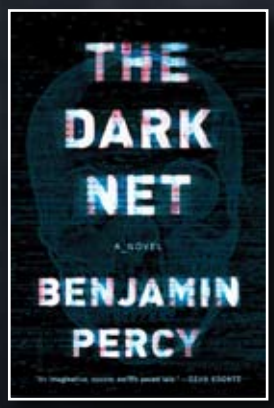

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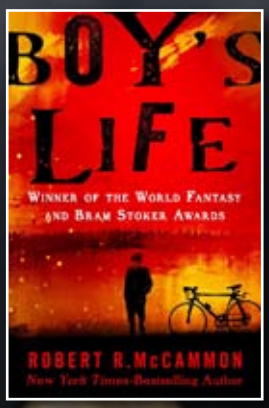

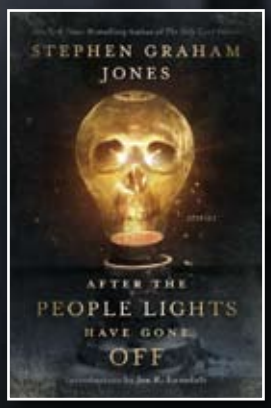

GHOST ROCKETS OVER SWEDEN

The Lake Kölmjärv Mystery

By Cheryl Lynn Carter

Värmland, a region in central-west Sweden, is known for its rolling hills, extensive pine forests and thousands of lakes. In the summer of 1946, it became known for something else — anomalous phenomena in the sky.

Just after the end of World War II, the first "ghost rocket" reports surfaced on February 26, 1946, in Finland. In Sweden, the wave accelerated between May and December 1946, ultimately producing roughly 2,000 reports, with notable peaks on August 9 and 11. Contemporary speculation pinned the objects on foreign rocket testing with captured German V-weapon technology — rumors often pointed to Soviet experiments — but no confirmed launches were made from Peenemünde after early 1945, and hard evidence for any single conventional explanation never emerged.

During four days in July 1946, the Swedish Defense Staff received roughly 300 reports from multiple regions. On July 19 alone, "impacts" or near-surface trajectories were reported at several lakes, including Kattisträsket and Kölmjärv (near Överkalix) in Norrbotten, Vasarajärvi (near Gällivare), and Lake Marmen (near Söderhamn). The most investigated of these was the event at Lake Kölmjärv.

Lake Kölmjärv, a quiet body of water west of Överkalix, became the unlikely center of Sweden's most famous ghost rocket investigation in 1946.

Lake Kölmjärv Impact: From Farm Field to Military Search

At 11:45 a.m. on July 19, 1946, farmer Knut Lindbäck was working his fields on the shore of Lake Kölmjärv, west of Överkalix. With him was his maid, Beda Persson. Hearing a humming sound overhead, they looked up and saw a long, grayish object — blunted at the nose, tapered at the rear, with small fin-like protrusions — cross the sky and descend toward the lake. It struck near the southwest shore, throwing up a column of water and a second splash moments later.

Lindbäck rowed out to the point of impact. In the shallows he found churned-up mud, torn aquatic plants and stones thrown onto the beach, but no visible debris. The water there was only about 75 centimeters deep, yet so clouded by silt that he could not see the bottom; probing with an oar turned up nothing.

Local police forwarded the report up the chain to the defense-area command at Morjärv. By evening, police and Home Guard personnel had cordoned off the shoreline. Staff officer Stellan Jansson helped coordinate the response, and an army engineer detachment from Boden was mobilized overnight. On the morning of July 20, Lt. Karl-Gösta Bartoll arrived with a small team to lead the technical search. Newspapers were cautioned not to publish the exact location.

Investigators assembled a wooden raft and, to avoid

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while they were taking care of us in all theatres of operation," it was reminded.

...frequency and intensity in the last 48 hours. The latest quake caused no reported damage.

Mysterious 'Ghost Rockets' Puzzling to Swedish Army

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 12—(AP)—Swedish military authorities plan to publish within the next few days a communique on an investigation they have been making of the "ghost rockets" that have been streaking daily over Sweden since early July.

Official sources have declined to speculate on the source of the mysterious spool shaped missiles, but it is generally believed that the rocket-propelled objects come from some place along the Baltic coast of Germany.

Between July 9-12 authorities received 300 reports of the missiles and since then reports have poured in daily. Fragments examined by scientists gave little in the way of clues.

In general the rocket is described as a small object with a flaming tail, which speeds at great height, making little sound. The longest flight of any of the missiles, so far as military experts could determine, was about 60[illegible] miles.

Swedish newspapers have been cautioned not to publish the names of places where the rockets appear.

Surrounded by forests west of Överkalix, Lake Kölmjärv entered the history books in 1946 as ground zero for Sweden's strangest aerial enigma. The ghost rocket appeared as a sleek, missile-like object that cut silently across the Swedish sky before vanishing.

zone on the lake bed and extensive uprooted vegetation consistent with a detonation beneath the surface. Because the bottom was deep, soft mud, standard mine- and metal-detection methods were unreliable. The team instead stretched a wire baseline across the lake and established a grid for systematic "sounding," pushing long feelers into the mud at half-meter intervals. Over the course of the operation, thousands of probes and bottom samples were taken, yet nothing recoverable was found.

Scientists from the National Defense Research Institute (FOA) joined the broader investigation of the 1946 reports, reviewing physical claims and instrument traces. At Kölmjärv, however, the on-site work remained a surface-based, instrument-guided search; there is no contemporary documentation of divers or sonar-equipped submersibles being employed in that lake during the 1946 operation.

Search Ends, Mystery Deepens in Official Reports

After roughly three weeks, the Kölmjärv search was called off. In his summary, Bartoll noted the disturbed lake bottom but concluded that any object may have fragmented — possibly constructed of lightweight materials — leaving little to detect with the tools available at the time.

On October 10, 1946, the Swedish Defense Staff issued a public assessment: "Most observations are vague and must be treated very skeptically. In some cases, however, clear, unambiguous observations have been made that cannot be explained as natural phenomena, Swedish aircraft, or imagination on the part of the observer. Echo, radar, and other equipment registered readings, but gave no clue as to the nature of the objects."

What, then, was seen over Kölmjärv? Did an object actually enter the water and disintegrate in the mud? Did a ricochet off submerged rock account for the twin splashes? Or were witnesses observing advanced technology whose signatures eluded the instruments of the day?

A declassified Top-Secret memorandum from United States Air Forces in Europe, dated November 4, 1948 (declassified in 1997), captured the lingering uncertainty:

"For some time, we have been concerned by the recurring report on flying saucers. They have been reported by so many sources and from such a variety of places that we are convinced that they cannot be disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking."

According to the memo, Swedish Air Intelligence said that reliable, technically qualified observers had reached the view that "these phenomena are obviously the result of a high technical skill which cannot be credited to any presently known culture on Earth," possibly indicating an origin beyond known terrestrial technology. ◆

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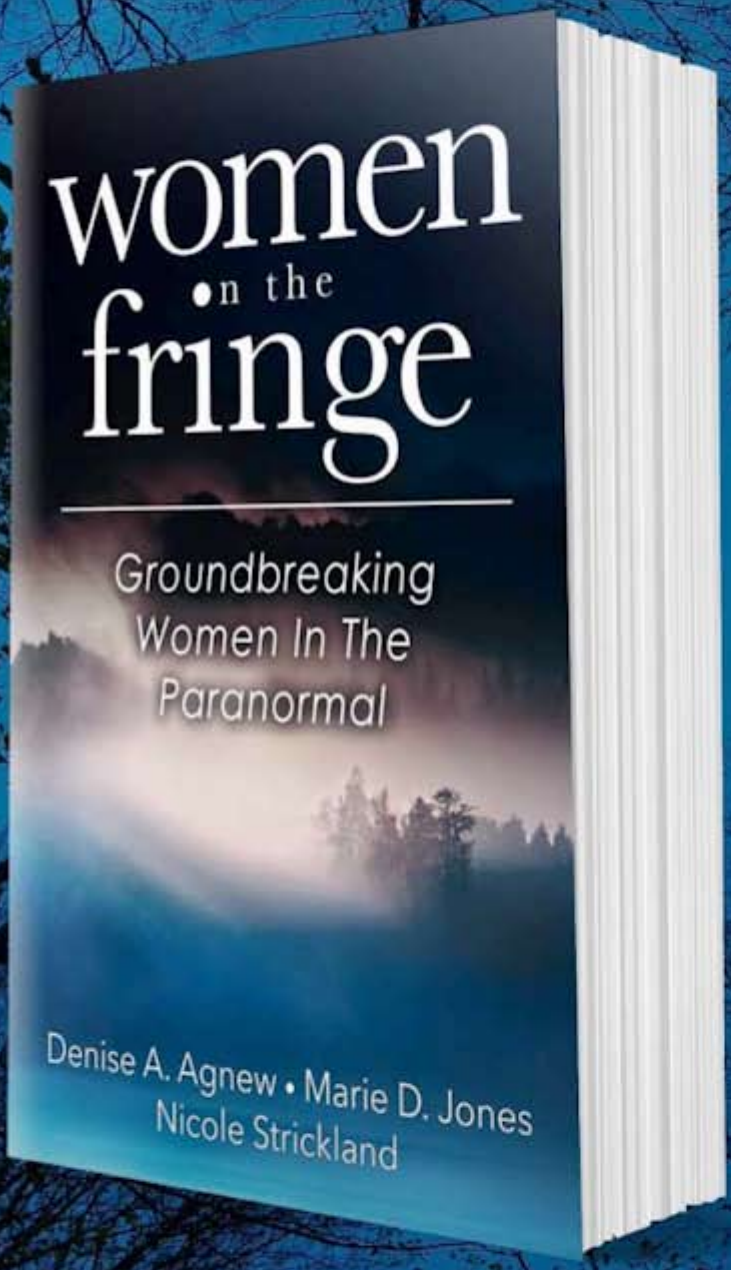

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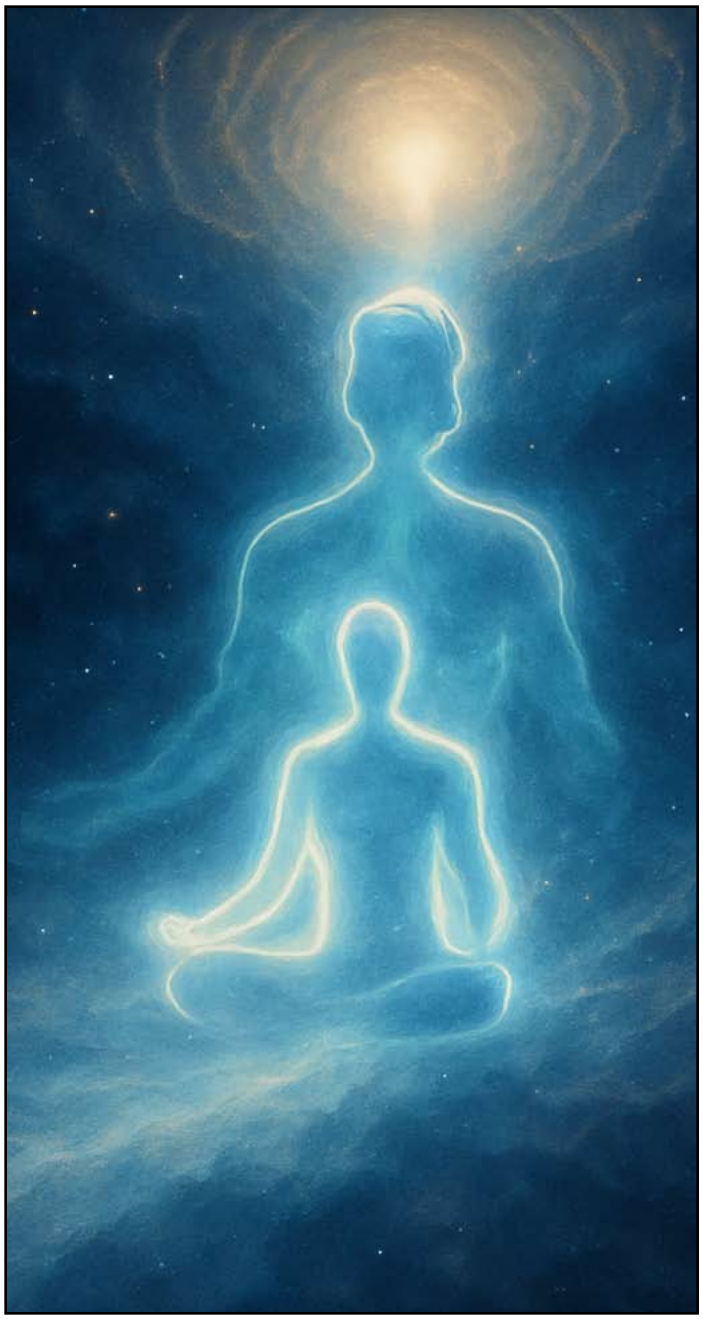
The Sound of Silence

Mystical Quiet as a Spiritual Practice

By Chad Wilson

Silence is golden. It's a phrase we toss around casually, sometimes with a sigh of relief when the kids finally fall asleep or the noise of the day dies down. But beyond its everyday use, silence holds a much deeper resonance in the spiritual traditions of the world. Silence isn't just the absence of sound — it can be the presence of something far greater.

Mystics across time and cultures have treated silence as a doorway. Step through it, they say, and you enter a space where ordinary perception dissolves. Noise belongs to the surface world, but silence allows us to touch what lies beneath: the sacred, the eternal, the unsayable. It is in these quiet depths that seekers often discover truths too subtle for language, insights that emerge only when the clamor fades away.



Why Silence Matters in a Noisy World

Let's be honest: modern life thrives on noise. From the buzz of notifications to the chatter of 24/7 media, we've built a culture that equates sound with stimulation, and stimulation with value. If we're quiet, we worry we're missing something. Yet, ironically, it's when we stop chasing the next bit of noise that something profound begins to happen.

Silence restores. Neurologists have found that two minutes of complete quiet can be more calming to the brain than listening to music. Monastics could have told us this centuries ago. By withdrawing from constant sensory input, we recover the inner capacity to pay attention — not just to what's happening outside, but to the whisper of what's happening within. This act of listening inward can sharpen intuition, awaken creativity, and even improve emotional balance in ways that constant distraction never could.

Mystical traditions go further. They suggest that silence is not merely restful, but revelatory. The Sufi poet Rumi wrote that silence is "the language of God." Christian

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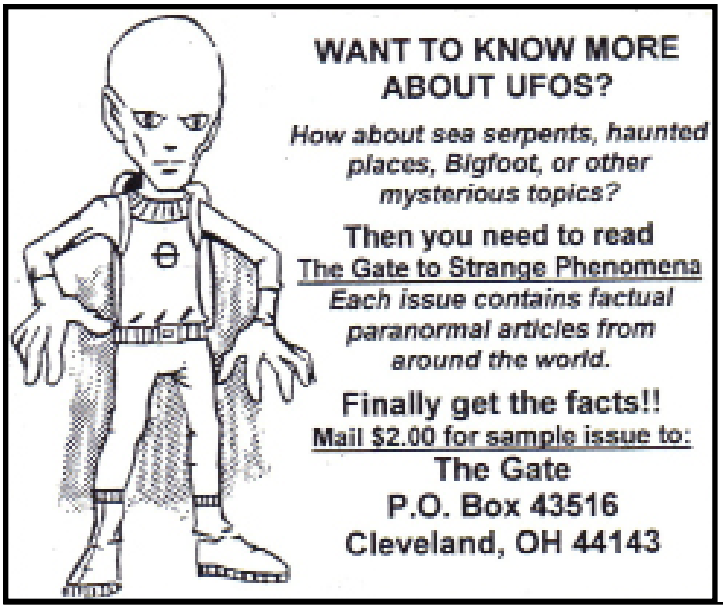
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mystics spoke of the "cloud of unknowing," a quiet beyond thought where the soul meets the divine. In Buddhist practice, silence isn't emptiness at all, but full presence.

Across traditions, the message is clear: Silence does not diminish life, it deepens it, allowing us to encounter reality in its purest form.

Silence as a Practice, Not Just a Pause

Here's the key: Silence doesn't work if it's only accidental. Yes, you might feel a fleeting peace when your house goes quiet at midnight, but mystical silence asks for more than that. It's a practice.

Think of it like this: Silence is a muscle, and it gets stronger the more you use it. Sitting in stillness for five minutes can feel unbearable at first — the mind races, the itch to "do" something flares up. But the longer you stay, the more you notice: Breath slowing, thoughts softening, awareness expanding. With practice, silence becomes less an absence of sound and more an active presence.

Mystics often describe this presence in paradoxes. It is still, but alive. It is empty, yet overflowing. It doesn't erase the self, but it dissolves the chatter that keeps the self-restless. In that stillness, people report feelings of profound connection — with God, with nature, with consciousness itself.

The Deeper Meaning of Mystical Silence

So, what exactly is "mystical silence"? It's not about gagging your voice or avoiding conversation. It's not about punishing quiet, either — the kind that comes from being silenced in life. Mystical silence is chosen, cultivated, and honored.

It's the silence that invites you to hear what ordinary sound drowns out: the subtle rhythms of your own soul. Mystical silence is not a void but a fullness, a communion. When seekers describe it, they often resort to metaphors: a vast ocean, a radiant stillness, a luminous dark.

And here's the paradox: The more deeply you enter silence, the less you can describe it. Words fall short, which is why silence itself becomes the truest expression. That's why mystics, after pages of poetry or prayer, often return to nothing but quiet.

Practical Ways to Explore It

You don't need to retreat to a monastery to begin. Here are a few approachable ways to touch mystical silence:

• Morning pause: Before reaching for your phone, sit quietly for five minutes. Breathe, notice, listen. No agenda.

• Walking in silence: Take a walk without headphones. Let the rustle of leaves or distant hum of life be your soundscape, but keep your inner dialogue soft.

• Sacred spaces: Visit a church, temple, or even a quiet park. Notice how collective silence can create a palpable atmosphere.

• End-of-day ritual: Before bed, turn off devices and sit in candlelight. Let the silence settle in as the final note of your day.

The point isn't to achieve a mystical breakthrough right away. It's to make space. Silence will do the rest in its own time.

Why Silence Is Golden, After All

So, maybe that old saying is wiser than we thought. Silence is golden not just because it spares us from noise, but because it carries a value that words, money, or music can't match. It's golden because it's rare. It's golden because it purifies. And it's golden because in the stillness, we glimpse something eternal — a quiet reminder that beneath all our noise, we are part of something vast and sacred.

The mystical path insists that silence is more than golden. It is divine. ◆

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SPIRITUAL RADAR

The Shaman Detective

By Willie Windwalker Gibson

I have been retired from law enforcement since 1990. Health issues forced me to step away, but long before that, I had already begun walking a different path.

While serving as an officer, I discovered how deeply my shamanic gifts could guide me. I eventually turned in my police badge in 1980 and entered the private sector as a detective and security agent, specializing in personal protection.

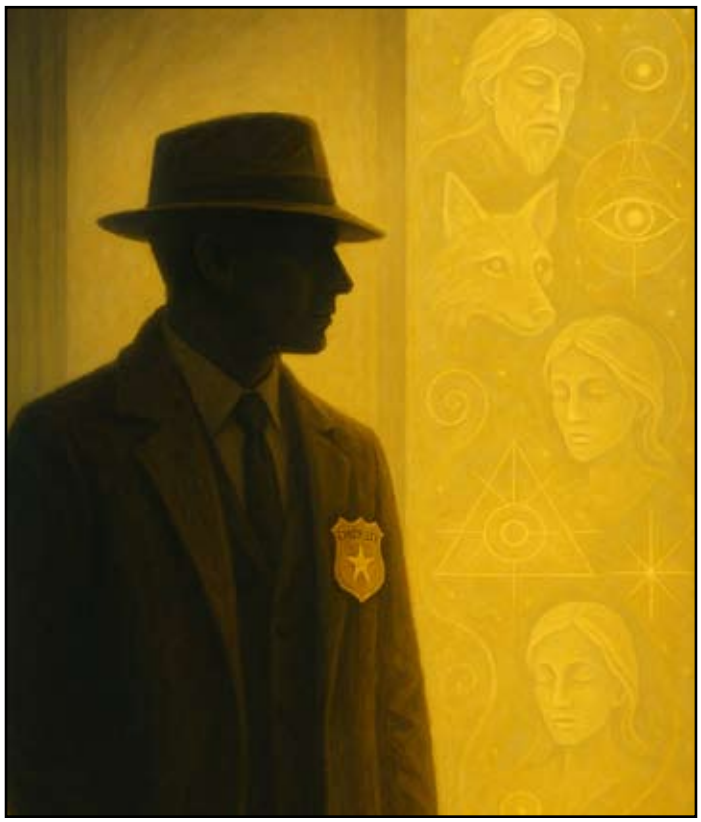
Over the years, I provided security for celebrities, including Bob Hope and Jerry Lewis. I even worked special details alongside the Secret Service during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. My professional reputation grew, not only because of my skills in protection and investigation, but also because of the abilities I rarely spoke of — my psychic gifts.

When I was on the job as a private detective, I often relied on my spiritual senses. My psychic energy helped me scope out potential dangers before they unfolded. Many times, those instincts saved my life. I came to think of myself as "spiritual radar," using my connection to spirit guides to warn me of what I was walking into.

There were cases where I sensed danger long before it showed itself, and by trusting that inner voice, I was able to prevent harm not just to myself but to the people I was protecting. Those close calls became proof to me that these gifts were not only real, but essential tools in my work. They bridged the gap between the physical world of law enforcement and the unseen world of spirit, and I learned to walk with one foot in each.

My colleagues often wondered how I consistently came out on top of situations others struggled with. Of course, I couldn't explain it to them at the time — they would have thought I was crazy rather than psychic.

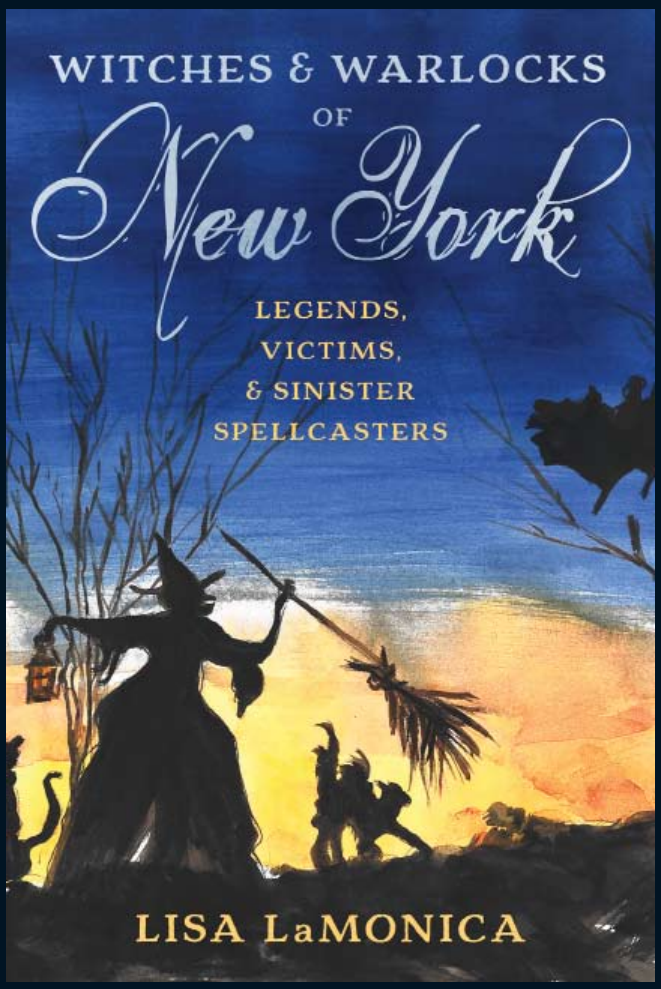
What I want to convey to readers who also have psychic gifts is this: It is not wrong to use them in your professional life. Whether you are a first responder, a bus driver, or a teacher, God gave you these abilities for a



reason. They are meant for the greater good — to protect, to guide, and to bring light in dark places.

When I was 10 years old, I confided in my father about what I could do. He told me to keep it a secret until I was older because people would not understand. So, for many years, I used my gifts quietly, almost in the shadows. By the time I reached my thirties, I embraced who I truly was and stepped fully into my calling as a shaman.

For those of you who carry abilities like mine, do not be afraid to honor them. Use them with integrity, for protection, and for the betterment of mankind. God created you with purpose, and part of that purpose is to be exactly who you are meant to be. ◆



New York has a surprisingly rich and lasting history of witches and witchcraft.

"Witches and Warlocks of New York" is a collection of legends and historical accounts about witches and warlocks from the Empire State.

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